Ministry of Education

Plan for 2017-18

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable
Don Morgan, Q.C.

Minister of Education

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Education Plan for 2017-18.

Government Direction and Budget for 2017-18 is focused on *Meeting the Challenge*, finding the right balance between addressing the deficit and ensuring that Saskatchewan people continue to have the programs, services and infrastructure that they need. Government will deliver sustainable, high quality public services in the most cost-effective way possible.

Saskatchewan will continue to meet the challenge it is facing by investing in what is important and valued by Saskatchewan people. For the Ministry of Education, that means continuing to invest in our early years and Prekindergarten to Grade 12 students while ensuring accountability and an efficient operational structure.

A strong public education system is the foundation of our province's future. By supporting our children to learn and value education, we give them the opportunity to realize their full potential. We remain committed to reaching our shared goals outlined in the Education Sector Strategic Plan, including increasing the number of students at grade level in reading, writing and math, leading the country in graduation rates, and significantly improving in First Nations and Métis engagement and graduation rates. In order to reach these goals, we will meet the needs of our students through infrastructure investment, which includes the opening of 21 new schools and the creation of 889 new child care spaces in the Fall of 2017.

Like all of our education partners, providing a quality education for the success of our students continues to be top priority for our government.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Meeting the Challenge* of the current fiscal situation. In so doing, Government will continue to support and encourage economic growth, and ensure government services are affordable and sustainable in the long term. This will include pursuing transformational change so that Saskatchewan people have the programs, services and infrastructure they need now and in the future.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2017-18 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry of Education provides leadership and direction to the early years, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, family literacy and library services. The Ministry supports the sectors through funding, governance and accountability, with a focus on improving student achievement.

The Ministry is committed to improving the learning success and well-being of all Saskatchewan children and youth, and the enhancement of family literacy.

Mission Statement

The Ministry of Education provides strategic, innovative and collaborative leadership to the early learning and child care, Prekindergarten through Grade 12 education, literacy and library sectors. It promotes higher student achievement and well-being for Saskatchewan children and youth, and improved literacy skills for all, as a foundation of the province's social and economic growth.

Strategic Priorities for Saskatchewan's Early Years, Library, Literacy and Prekindergarten to Grade 12 Education Sectors

The aggressive targets of the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* are reflected in the Education Sector Strategic Plan. The Education Sector Strategic Plan, developed in collaboration with the sector and launched in 2014-15, was renewed in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

Four out of the five outcomes in the Education Sector Strategic Plan are directly aligned with the Government goal of securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people. The Education Sector Strategic Plan reflects the knowledge that improving and sustaining graduation rates is dependent upon every student developing a foundation in literacy and numeracy that will support their long-term success and learning. It compels the system to listen to students and actively engage them and their parents / caregivers in culturally-responsive ways that make students want to attend and achieve in school. The library and literacy sectors develop Saskatchewan residents' literacy skills, as well as support lifelong learning and student success.

The Education Sector Strategic Plan and the Ministry of Education's 2017-18 budget are focused on the actions that will have the greatest impact on achieving the Education Sector Strategic Plan outcomes in a context of efficiency and fiscal restraint.

The Ministry's 2017-18 plan also includes actions to implement Government's response to the Education Governance Panel's consultations. These actions are expected to further enhance the effectiveness of the Education Sector Strategic Plan to align with the Government's goals of securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people and delivering responsive and responsible government.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, children aged 0-6 will be supported in their development to ensure that 90 per cent of students exiting Kindergarten are ready for learning in the primary grades.

Strategies

Implement *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016-2020.*

Participate in the development of a national Early Learning and Child Care Framework and make strategic investments consistent with *Saskatchewan's Early Years Plan 2016-2020.*

Encourage Prekindergarten and Kindergarten educators to complete professional learning workshops and / or modules by June 2018.

Key Actions

- Improve access to early learning programs by collaborating with partners to align and coordinate current funded programs so that more children and families are served.
- Support school divisions in responding to Early Years Evaluation – Teacher Assessment data and share data with community and stakeholders to enhance collaborative planning.
- Implement supports to enhance early childhood training and specialization in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten educators.
- Increase quality of and access to Early Learning and Child Care programs by opening 889 new child care centre spaces, including 810 in new joint-use schools that will implement an innovative new child care model.
- Work with partners to enhance training and recruitment of early childhood educators in the joint-use school communities.
- Review child care funding to examine options for fiscally sustainable funding that support the objectives of licensed child care.

Performance Measures

Early Years Evaluation

Percentage of students exiting Kindergarten with appropriate development as measured by Early Years Evaluation – Teacher Assessment data results.

Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Annual Reports

Percentage of teachers who complete the survey that informs the Prekindergarten and Kindergarten annual reports. The Prekindergarten and Kindergarten annual reports provide information about class composition, training and professional development, and program evaluation in Prekindergarten and Kindergarten programs across the province.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the Education Sector Strategic Plan: Work to increase the number of Grade 3 students reading at grade level.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, 80 per cent of students will be at or above grade level in reading, writing and math.

Strategies

Work toward an improvement to at least 80 per cent of Grade 3 students reading at or above grade level by June 2020.

Work toward an improvement to at least 80 per cent of grades 4, 7 and 9 students at or above grade level in writing by June 2020.

Work toward an improvement to at least 80 per cent of grades 2, 5 and 8 students at or above grade level in math by June 2020.

Key Actions

- Establish clear expectations for students' performance by developing a provincial math approach for grades 1-9 that will inform teaching and learning.
- Hold sector consultations in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 regarding use of the draft math approach.
- Work with the Ministry of Central Services to develop Student Data System web screens, database and reports for both writing and math to facilitate the collection and sharing of data.
- Conduct a province-wide analysis of sector writing results in order to inform teaching and learning.
- Develop instructional supports in English and French for teachers to assist students with additional needs to support improvement in writing.
- Develop supports for early oral language acquisition for English as an Additional Language students.
- Work with school divisions and First Nations education authorities to support the implementation of a writing approach to inform teaching and learning.
- Maintain and update *Saskatchewan Reads* and *Saskatchewan Reads for Administrators* resources.

Performance Measures

Reading Achievement

Percentage of grades 1-3 English and Francophone and grades 2-3 French Immersion students reading at grade level.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the Education Sector Strategic Plan: Reduce the Grade 12 graduation disparity between First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis students in the Prekindergarten to Grade 12 system by 50 per cent by 2020.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

Collaboration between First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis partners will result in significant improvement in First Nations and Métis student engagement and will increase three-year graduation rates from 35 per cent in June 2012 to at least 65 per cent, and the five-year graduation rate from 54 per cent in June 2014 to at least 75 per cent in June 2020.

Strategies

Work collaboratively with school divisions, First Nations education authorities and education sector organizations to achieve an annual increase of four percentage points in the First Nations and Métis three-year and five-year graduation rates.

Work with school divisions to achieve parity between First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis students on the OurSCHOOL survey engagement measures. The OurSCHOOL surveys for students, teachers and parents provide anonymous and reliable data to support local school improvement planning.

Key Actions

- Encourage partnership initiatives by administering the Invitational Shared Services Initiatives, which are partnerships between school divisions and First Nations education authorities, and encouraging other partnership initiatives including Elder engagement.
- In response to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action, promote learning environments that are responsive to students' needs, including positive relationships and shared responsibility.
- Identify an action committee to identify structures and practices to overcome racism and build relationships, understanding and trust between First Nations and Métis and non-First Nations and Métis people.
- Implement Help Me Tell My Story, an oral language development assessment for three-to-five year olds and Help Me Talk About Math, a numeracy assessment for grades 1, 2 and 3 students in all schools.
- Redevelop the Help Me Tell My Story application and platform and make it available for use in all interested schools in Fall 2017.
- Facilitate transition plans for students moving through and among systems, including mechanisms for sharing information.
- Implement and expand Following Their Voices in provincial and First Nations schools. Following Their Voices focuses on enhancing relationships between students and teachers, creating structures and supports for teachers and school administrators to co-construct teaching and learning interactions with students, and creating safe, well-managed learning environments.
- Work with school administration to improve responsiveness to student needs in learning environments, build positive relationships and share responsibility by delivering targeted professional development for school administrators to improve responses through students' needs and by using OurSCHOOL data.
- Continue to provide early childhood education opportunities and engage families and caregivers in student support by providing summer literacy camps on-reserve.

- Continue to embed responses to Student First within the ways of working in the Ministry and with education sector organizations (e.g., Education Sector Strategic Plan, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Mental Health and Addictions Strategy).
- Engage with First Nations, Métis and provincial stakeholders in renewing *Inspiring Success: Building Towards Student Achievement: First Nations and Métis Education Policy Framework.*

Performance Measures

Invitational Shared Services Initiatives

Number of Invitational Shared Services Initiative partnerships that showed improvement in at least one of their identified student outcome measures.

Success of the Invitational Shared Services Initiative partnerships based on Invitational Shared Services Initiatives data.

Attendance

Percentage of First Nations and Métis students with 80 per cent or higher attendance.

Credit Attainment

Percentage of secondary-level self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students in all schools attaining 5-7 or 8+ credits per year.

Graduation Rates

Percentage of three-year and five-year graduation rates of self-identified First Nations, Métis and Inuit students completing Grade 12 in the year shown.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people | Meeting the challenges of growth | **Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people** | Delivering responsive and responsible government

Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* and the Education Sector Strategic Plan: Ensure Saskatchewan leads the country in graduation rates.

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By June 30, 2020, Saskatchewan will achieve an 85 per cent three-year graduation rate and a 90 per cent five-year graduation rate.

Strategies

Work to achieve an annual increase of three percentage points in the provincial three-year graduation rate.

Work towards a five per cent increase by June 2018 in the intellectual engagement measure that is part of the OurSCHOOL perceptual survey of student engagement.

Key Actions

- Explore, collect and share successful initiatives, stories and promising practices from school divisions and First Nations education authorities.
- Support the annual graduation rate symposium.

- Conduct an analysis of sector policies and procedures that may create barriers to student achievement and identify Ministry policies and procedures which impact opportunity for graduation, such as policies related to provincial exams, prerequisites, Adult 12, and credit attainment (apprenticeship, special projects, course challenges, etc.).
- Create a mechanism for ensuring that educators, parents and students are aware of provincial policies and procedures that can be utilized to increase their opportunity to achieve credits and complete Grade 12.
- Identify and re-engage non-attending students by distributing provincial OurSCHOOL reports to all participating school divisions and First Nations education authorities.
- Encourage every school division and First Nations education authority in the province to develop a strategy for all Grade 9 students to have a graduation and post-graduation plan, and establish a process for maintaining those plans through Grade 12.
- Work with MyBlueprint, an online education and career planning tool, to develop provincial reporting that will provide data with respect to the number of students who have established a graduation and post-graduation plan. Collect data from school divisions that might not be using MyBlueprint.
- Conduct a review of provincial high school graduation requirements.
- Renew curricula for high school, including grades 10-12 social sciences, arts education, practical and applied arts, and physical education in French and English.
- Complete French curricula renewal for language arts to Grade 12, grades 1-9 arts education and Grade 1 and 2 physical education.
- Facilitate conversations with employers and Adult Education about education requirements for future workers.

Performance Measures

Provincial Three-Year and Five-Year Graduation Rate

Annual percentage of students who graduate.

Attendance

Percentage of students with 80 per cent or higher attendance.

Credit Attainment

Percentage of students who attain eight or more credits in Grade 10.

Engagement

Percentage of students who report high levels of intellectual engagement on the OurSCHOOL survey.

Grade 9 Graduation and Post-Graduation Plan

Percentage of Grade 9 students who have completed a graduation and post-graduation plan.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry and Education Sector Goal

By August 31, 2020, implement a sector-wide approach to find efficiencies and increase value-add in order for the sector to be responsive to the challenges of student needs.

Strategy

Work with school divisions to achieve an accumulated savings towards the total of $60 million by August 31, 2019.

Key Actions

- Provide comparative information to support school divisions in the development of a sector-wide approach.
- Support school divisions in exploring options, gathering data and working with stakeholders in order to realize savings.
- Provide continuous improvement training and development tools for use in the Ministry and school divisions.
- Collect and compile results of continuous improvement events.
- Work with school divisions to develop a long-term project on employee attendance management.
- Work with the sector to support implementation plans of approved efficiency projects as required.

Performance Measures

Provincial Summary of Accumulated Savings

Total actual savings resulting from school division initiatives and provincially coordinated initiatives. (Note: initiatives are completed at the school division level.)

Continuous Improvement

Number of continuous improvement initiatives conducted in school divisions and the Ministry.

Government Goals

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Ministry and Education Sector Goal

Work with school divisions, independent schools, and interested First Nations schools to establish the feasibility, efficiency, criteria and vendor(s) of a sector Unified Student Information System for the timely collection of student data.

Strategy

In consultation with the sector, continue to develop the business case for a provincial Unified Student Information System.

Key Action

- Complete work and review the results of the business case, and determine whether to acquire or select a provincial Unified Student Information System to track student achievement, including a Ministry Student Data System and a communication plan.

Government Goals

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Ministry Goal

Improved supports for all learners province-wide.

Key Actions

- Continue to support school divisions in creating safe, caring and accepting learning environments for all students using a *Comprehensive School Community Health* approach, which is an internationally recognized framework that provides a foundation for families, students, communities and the sector to work together to support students and address school community health.
- Renew the *Caring and Respectful Schools* policy which will include support to school divisions in developing school safety plans.
- Implement Government direction on transformational change.
- In partnership with other ministries and northern stakeholders and, as part of the Northern Education Action Plan, implement a northern strategy to provide community and education supports for northern communities.
- Negotiate the *Protocol for Agreements for Minority Language Education and Second Language Instruction.*
- Continue to support the Distance Learning portal to allow for Saskatchewan learners to access distance, online and blended learning opportunities.
- In partnership with school divisions, develop supports to assist in the transition of newcomers into and through the provincial education system.
- Identify successful practices and continue to develop supports to assist English as an Additional Language learners to acquire increased language proficiency.
- Continue to develop resources and supports within the classroom, small group and individualized targeted interventions to increase the learning opportunities for students who require additional support.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: The Government of Saskatchewan will invest in the infrastructure needed to support education and quality of life priorities.

Ministry Goal

Maximize infrastructure investments for safe, secure and functional learning facilities in partnership with stakeholders.

Strategies

Work with the education sector to renew infrastructure policy and guidelines in order to enhance existing approaches used to address the highest provincial infrastructure needs.

Work towards a new capital asset strategy that coordinates overall capital needs province-wide.

Key Actions

- Develop the next phase of policies and processes for capital planning, funding and procurement as part of the capital manual for use by school divisions.
- Develop measurements and targets to monitor the success of the Ministry's capital asset strategy.
- Develop a utilization formula that more accurately describes the usage of Saskatchewan schools.
- Oversee on time and on budget delivery of nine new joint-use schools in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville for completion by September 2017.

Performance Measure

Joint-Use Schools Project Progress

Numbers of joint-use schools, including the child care centres, ready and open for the start of the 2017-18 school year.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Continue with the development and deployment of workforce diversity initiatives / strategies.

Key Actions

- Develop a strategic workforce plan.
- Increase percentage of employees self-identified as First Nations, Métis, youth or persons with a disability.
- Continue implementation of the youth strategy.

Performance Measures

Workforce Measures

Percentage of Ministry of Education staff self-declared as First Nations and Métis.

Percentage of Ministry of Education staff self-declared as person with a disability.

Government Goals

- Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people
- Meeting the challenges of growth
- Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people
- Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Deliver responsive and responsible government.

Key Actions

- Renew *The Education Act, 1995* including accompanying regulations.
- Renew / update *The Independent Schools Regulations* and policy manual.
- Continue to review programs and services to ensure they are aligned, relevant and effective. Implement recommendations and monitor outcomes.

Highlights

The following are key investments from the Ministry of Education's 2017-18 Budget:

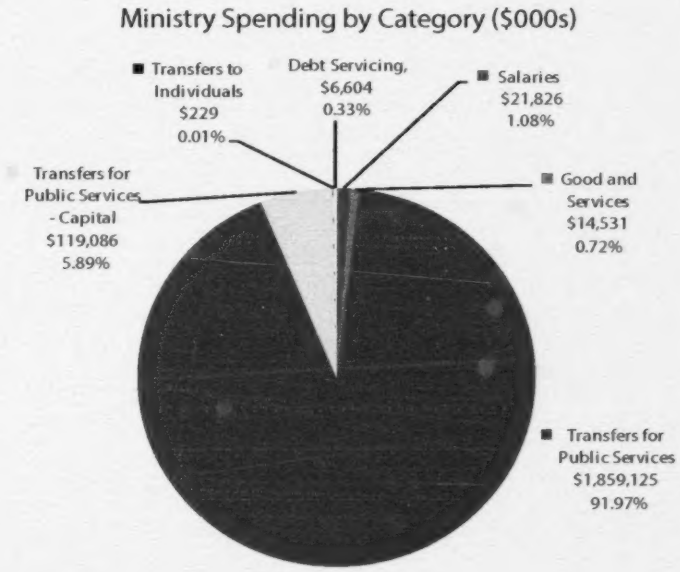
- overall Education funding has decreased by $145.8 million, or 6.7 per cent, from 2016-17 for a total of $2.02 billion;
- Saskatchewan's 28 school divisions will receive $1.86 billion in school operating funding, which includes revenue collected from the education property tax. This is down $22 million from 2016-17 and represents a 1.2 per cent reduction year over year;
- continued investment of $119.1 million to complete 21 new schools and one major renovation that will open in fall 2017. This includes:
  - $48.3 million in school capital for the 18 new schools on nine joint-use sites in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville;
  - $21.8 million to provide final year funding for major capital projects including three new schools in Regina (Sacred Heart, École Connaught and Scott Collegiate in the Mâmawêyatitân Centre) and a major expansion and renovation of St. Brieux School;
  - $2 million in design funding for the consolidation and replacement of schools in Rosthern and Weyburn;
  - $43.2 million for preventative maintenance, renewal and emergency funding, a 13.7 per cent increase over last year's funding;
  - $2.8 million for the purchase of seven new relocatable classrooms; and,
  - $1 million for school facility assessments.
- $55.8 million for child care funding. 889 new spaces will be created, including 810 spaces at the 18 new joint-use schools in Saskatoon, Regina, Warman and Martensville, bringing the total number of new spaces created in the past 10 years to more than 6,000; and,
- $3.5 million in operating funding for northern and regional libraries.

Financial Summary

2017-18 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	12,797
K-12 Education	1,500,270
Early Years	79,521
Literacy	1,858
Provincial Library	7,928
Appropriation	**1,602,374**
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	548
Expense	**1,602,922**
Teachers' Pension and Benefits	419,027
Total Expense	**2,021,949**
Total Appropriation	**2,021,401**

FTE Staff Complement	271.5

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget


Ministry Spending by Category ($000s)
Transfers to Individuals $229 0.01%
Debt Servicing, $6,604 0.33%
Salaries $21,826 1.08%
Transfers for Public Services - Capital $119,086 5.89%
Good and Services $14,531 0.72%
Transfers for Public Services $1,859,125 91.97%

For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/education